



# Alaska Anthropological Association Newsletter



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**Deadline to submit  
materials for the next newsletter is  
April 1, 2018!**



Do you know of any upcoming conferences, workshops, exhibits, funding or job opportunities, calls for papers, or other events that are of interest to aaa members? Please submit news items and photographs to the editor at: [scoffman@alaska.edu](mailto:scoffman@alaska.edu)

Image by Elizabeth Mikow, ADF&G

# A Message from the President



Dear AAA Members,

I will always look back at 2017 as the year I finally took a stand against radical political policies. Although money speaks loudest in this country, I realized my voice would not be heard unless I used it. I began with letters, emails, and phone calls to Alaskan leadership at all levels of government on behalf of myself and my family. I gave my opinion on health care, laws effecting cultural resources, the Federal budget, and even distillery tasting rooms (priorities, right?). I have encouraged our membership to take up the fight against Republican plans to erode federal cultural resources laws and destroy significant cultural landmarks. Recently, I sent letters on behalf of the Alaska Anthropological Association to Senators Murkowski and Sullivan and Representative Young asking them to change their positions on a number of cultural resources regulations. I applauded Senator Murkowski for her support of S. 1400 “Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act” and asked Sullivan to do the same. I asked all three of our federal legislators to reject HR 3990 “The National Monument Creation and Protection Act”. This act places economic development ahead of places of cultural significance. Finally, I requested that they not support HR 473 “The Military LANDs Act of 2017” which would allow the DoD to bypass Section 106 for undefined National Security reasons. I hope you all agree with my decision to let the Alaska leadership know that protecting cultural resources and places of significance to Alaska Natives is a priority to our members.

Before we know it, 2018 will be here and with the new year comes our next annual meeting. Abstracts will be due in January so get typing! The National Park Service in Anchorage is working hard to organize a great conference. Lunch and dinner speakers will be announced shortly. Please renew your membership for the association prior to registering for the conference. We have noticed a lot of “active members” in our database who have not been contributing to the society. This year, if you register for the conference as a member and do not pay a membership, your paper/poster will be removed from the meeting and your conference registration will be cancelled. Please contact anyone on the association board if there is any reason why you are unable to purchase a membership and we will help you out.

Please start thinking about our association scholarships and awards. Is there anyone you would like to nominate for a Professional Achievement Award? Outstanding Service to the Association? Outstanding Current Contribution? We have many award worthy people in our organization. Now is the time to recognize them. We have not given out Outstanding Current Contribution and Service awards since 2010! There were no Professional Achievement Award nominations in 2017. Please put “award nominations” on your to-do list. This small effort will have a huge impact.

This year the membership also voted to provide a meeting travel scholarship. We are aiming to launch this scholarship in time to help out for the 2018 meeting so check your email for the announcement.

We look forward to seeing many of you in Anchorage in March. Have a terrific holiday season and a productive winter.

*Julie Esdale, President*

## *President*

Julie Esdale

## *Vice President*

Amy Phillips-Chan

## *Board Members*

Shelby Anderson

Phoebe Gilbert

Yoko Kugo

## *Secretary*

H. Kory Cooper

## *Treasurer*

Vivian Bowman

*The purpose of the Alaska Anthropological Association is to serve as a vehicle for maintaining communication among people interested in all branches of anthropology; to promote public awareness and support for anthropological activities and goals; to foster knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of Alaska Native and circumpolar cultural heritage; to work in collaboration with Indigenous communities on all aspects of research and education; and to facilitate the dissemination of anthropological works in both technical and non-technical formats.*

*Membership is open to any individual or organization indicating an interest and concern for the discipline of anthropology. The Association holds its annual meeting during March or April of each year and generally publishes four newsletters each year.*

*The membership cycle begins each year on 1 October. Annual membership dues include a subscription to the Alaska Journal of Anthropology. Dues are \$50 for student members and \$100 for regular members. Memberships may be purchased online at [www.alaskaanthropology.org](http://www.alaskaanthropology.org).*

*Please e-mail submissions to the newsletter to the editor, Sam Coffman ([scoffman@alaska.edu](mailto:scoffman@alaska.edu)).*

# *Annual Conference March 21-24, 2018 in Anchorage, Alaska*

Registration is now open for the 45th Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association. The conference is being held at the Egan Center in Anchorage and is being organized by the National Park Service.

You may register for the conference and purchase meals for the dinner or lunch banquets at the following: <https://www.alaskaanthropology.org/annual-meeting/registration/>

Please note, if you register as a member and do not renew your AAA membership by March 1, your registration will be cancelled. You may renew your membership at: <https://www.alaskaanthropology.org/membership/> Registering for the conference DOES NOT renew your membership.

A \$30 late fee will be applied to all conference registrations purchased after January 15, 2018.

Abstract submissions for posters and papers will be accepted until **January 15, 2018**. You can submit your abstract at: <http://www.alaskaanthropology.org/paper-and-poster-abstract-submission/>

There are several Award and Scholarships offered by the association. Deadline for these is February 1st. Please visit the "Awards and Scholarship" page for more information.

We look forward to seeing you in Anchorage!

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Two Alaska Anthropological Association board positions are up for election. These two positions have been held for one term each by Amy Phillips-Chan and Phoebe Gilbert who are both running for reelection.

Please email Kory Cooper [alaskaanthrosecretary@gmail.com](mailto:alaskaanthrosecretary@gmail.com) with any new nominations for board seats. Membership must be current to be an eligible candidate, and membership is also required to vote, so please renew your membership for 2018. The nomination period will close December 20. A list of candidate bios and ballots will be emailed to current paid members in January.





# OUT AND ABOUT:

## Recent Happenings in Alaska Anthropology

Sam Coffman, Newsletter Editor

*“Out and About” is an opportunity for our readers to hear the latest news, achievements, and other information about our colleagues and our discipline.*

*If you know of an Alaska or northern individual, institution, or group that deserves recognition for recent work; or a colleague who has recently won an award, scholarship, or grant; or has embarked on an exciting new career journey or field work experience; or who has achieved a professional or personal milestone in their lives, please submit that information to our editor at [scoffman@alaska.edu](mailto:scoffman@alaska.edu).*

## Anchorage

UAA Campus

By Sam Coffman, UAMN:

*In an attempt to help promote recent theses defenses, I thought it would be a good idea to highlight these two recent defenses from UAA; Bronwyn and Annalisa. Both are highly important topics and issues in Alaska and the circumpolar north. If you have questions or wish to obtain copies of the theses or have questions please contact the UAA anthropology department. Congrats to both on their recent defenses!*

*Please tell me and the association of upcoming thesis and dissertation defenses.*



One Community, One Fish:  
A Retrospective Investigation of Accessing  
Changing Fisheries and Cultural Continuity in  
Tyonek, Alaska

Anthropology MA Thesis Defense  
Bronwyn E. Jones, B.A.





Thursday, November 9  
University of Alaska Anchorage  
Beatrice McDonald Hall 228  
5:30 to 7:30 PM

UAA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: [www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination).



A Feminist Theoretical Approach to the  
Analysis of the Osseous Tool Suite from the  
Broken Mammoth Site,  
Interior Alaska

Anthropology MA Thesis Defense  
Annalisa Heppner  
Friday, November 10  
University of Alaska, Anchorage  
Beatrice McDonald Hall 117, 4-6 PM




## The Anthropology of Alaska, Two Minutes at a Time

By Jenny H. Blanchard, BLM:

*This session provides a survey of anthropological research in Alaska over the past year, from Pleistocene archaeology to historical archaeology and cultural anthropology. Papers will be short and fun; this is a chance to give a “teaser” of research presented later in the conference, or to provide information on an artifact, site, or fieldwork story encountered last summer. It provides presenters with a chance to pique the audience’s interest in their research, and provides audience members a chance to get an overview of the entire scope of conference topics, even if they can’t attend every session.*

Email Jenny Blanchard to participate  
jblanchard@blm.gov

## Material Traditions Artists’ Residency: Moosehide Tanning and Sewing in the Dene Way

By Dawn Biddison, Smithsonian Arctic  
Studies Center, Anchorage Museum:

*Older generations of Athabascan peoples hand-tanned moose hides using time-tested methods that transformed raw skins into strong, supple leather for sewing beaded or quill-embroidered tunics, jackets, mittens, bags and moccasins, as well as everyday essentials from skin toboggans to dog harnesses. Traditional moosehide tanning is time consuming, labor intensive and technically complex, and has widely declined in recent generations.*

*Two artists working to revitalize this important Athabascan practice – Joel Isaak (Dena’ina) and Melissa Shaginoff (Ahtna) – are gaining knowledge from elders, experimenting with techniques, reading historic publications and studying museum collections.*

*Joel and Melissa will discuss moosehide tanning techniques – documented in the field – and demonstrate sewing techniques during a December residency at the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center, located in the Anchorage Museum. The public is welcome to meet the artists during visitor hours on Thursday December 14th and Friday December 15th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (included with admission).*

*This program is sponsored by The CIRI Foundation, Smithsonian Council for Arctic Studies, Anchorage Museum, Alaska State Council on the Arts and First National Bank of Alaska.*

## Fairbanks

UAF Campus

By Sam Coffman, UAMN:

*Alaska Sesquicentennial Exhibit on display at the University of Alaska Museum of the North*

*“A Time of Change” highlights interior Native Alaska cultures at the time of the purchase of Alaska by the United States from the Russian Empire.*

*For those in Fairbanks or planning to visit Fairbanks in the near future, the exhibit is located in the museum cafe area.*

## Nome

Carrie M. McLain Memorial  
Museum

By Amy Phillips-Chan, Carrie M.  
McLain Memorial Museum:

*The Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum in Nome, Alaska reopened in November 2017 following Phase II installation of the new 3,200 square foot exhibition -*



A visitor explores the new 25 foot skin boat display developed in collaboration with King Island elders that includes artifacts, photographs, touch props, and historic films. Photo by Amy Phillips-Chan

*- “Nome: Hub of Cultures and Communities Across the Bering Strait.” Over 50 community collaborators participated in interviews, shared stories, and contributed photographs for the new exhibition that showcases historical and cultural objects from the Bering Strait. The exhibition revolves around five main themes that address topics of Arctic concern including subsistence and the environment, mining, the built landscape, transportation, and community sustainability. Visitors can explore a series of immersive environments such as a miner’s tent, gold dredge, and Inupiat skin boat and watch films on fishing and dredging featuring local residents. The exhibition blends technology with hands-on interactives to connect past and contemporary narratives and is positioned as an essential place to inform, engage, and inspire discussion on the historical legacy and cultural vitality of the Bering Strait region.*



# Meetings of Interest

Sam Coffman, Newsletter Editor

The following are a list of upcoming conferences and meeting pertaining to Alaska and anthropology. If you know of others or would like to advertise a specific conference please contact Sam Coffman at: [scoffman@alaska.edu](mailto:scoffman@alaska.edu).



SHA Annual Meeting  
New Orleans, LA  
January 3-6, 2018



Society for American Archaeology

SAA 83rd Annual Meeting  
Washington, DC  
April 11 - 15, 2018



AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
*Advancing Knowledge, Solving Human Problems*

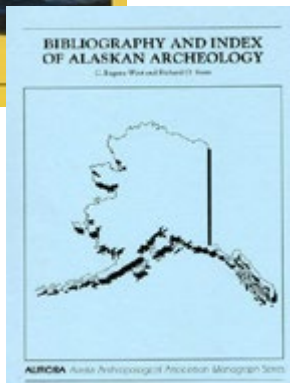
## Submissions wanted!

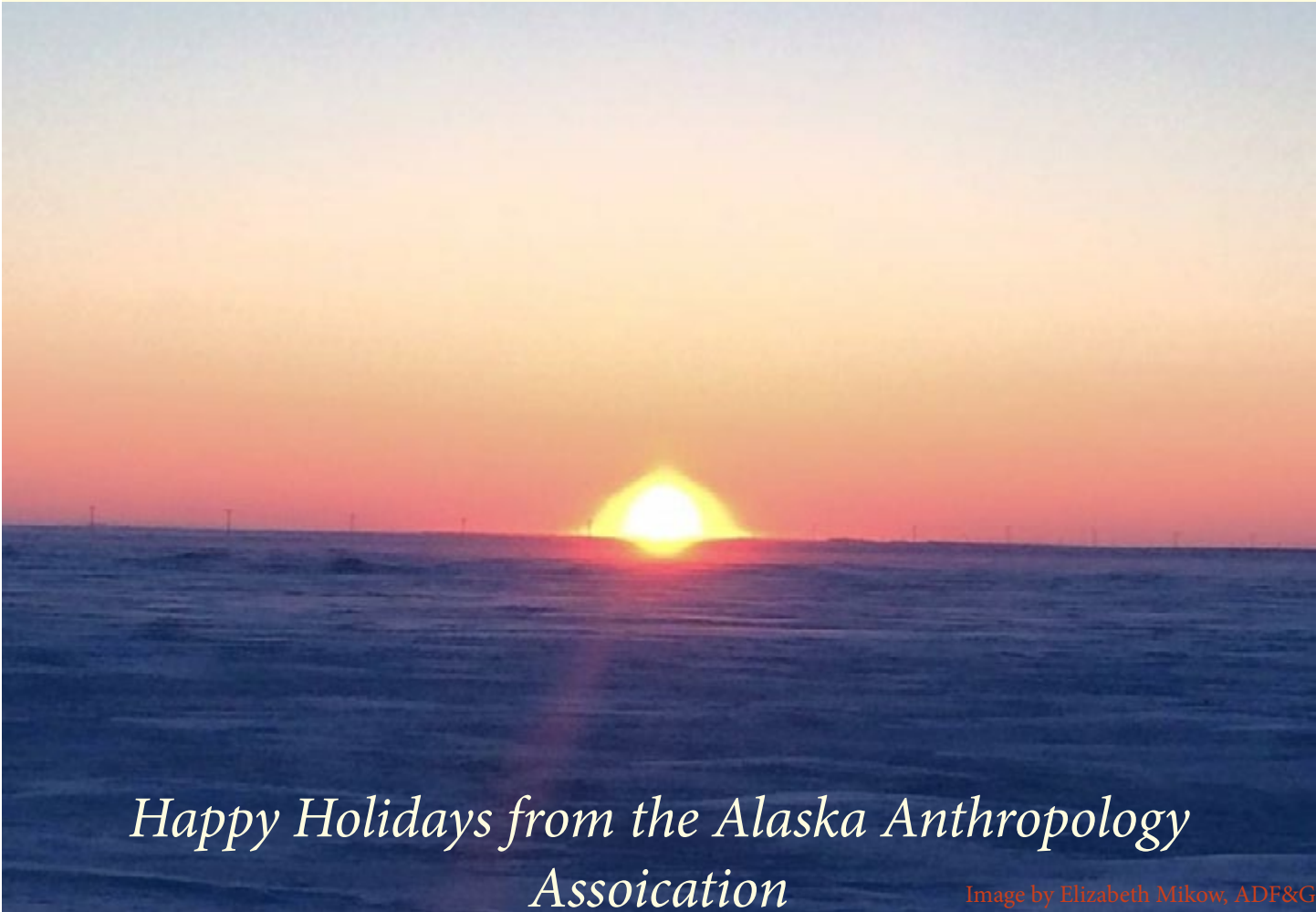
The AJA and the Aurora Monograph Series are looking for submissions for publication.

The AJA accepts original research articles, reports, translations, essays, book reviews, and thesis and dissertation abstracts, as well as research notes. You may access the submission guidelines at:

[http://www.alaskaanthropology.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/AJA-Style-Guide-final\\_111015](http://www.alaskaanthropology.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/AJA-Style-Guide-final_111015).

**NOW!** Is the time to renew your AAA membership. All members receive an annual subscription to the Alaska Journal of Anthropology and the Association's quarterly electronic newsletter, delivered by email. Additional benefits of membership include discounted registration for the Annual Meeting, and discounted prices on the Aurora Monograph Series and print copies of the Alaska Journal of Anthropology, in addition to website access to free downloads of prior AJA issues. Each membership, with the exception of an institutional one, also includes voting privileges!





*Happy Holidays from the Alaska Anthropology  
Association*

Image by Elizabeth Mikow, ADF&G